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Mobile District

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Contact:

E. Patrick Robbins 251-690-2511
ervin.p.robbins@sam.usace.army.mil

Janet Shelby 251-690-3320
janet.s.shelby@sam.usace.army.mil

World Wide Web: www.sam.usace.army.mil

THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OPERATING NORTH GEORGIA LAKES FOR FLOOD CONTROL

Mobile, Ala. – Because of significant rainfall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is operating its lakes in northern and west central Georgia for one of its main purposes of flood control. Northern Georgia has received several additional inches of rainfall over the last few days causing the downstream rivers to rise. The river at Rome, GA is about 4 feet above flood stages and is still rising.

As part of the flood control mode of operation, the releases from Buford, Allatoona, and Carters Dams have been curtailed and we have not generated since late Monday. We expect to keep the main units at the dams off until downstream conditions are favorable – probably Thursday.

“Protecting downstream interests means tolerating some high water temporarily at these lakes. Lanier is now at elevation 1073.8, Allatoona is at 846.7 and Carters is at 1083.9,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Chief of Public Affairs, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “Each of these lakes is above their summer level but still well within their flood storage capacity. Once the risk of flooding downstream diminishes, we’ll resume normal operation, bringing the lakes back to normal summer pool,” he said.

“The lakes downstream on the Appalachian, Chattahoochee, Flint river system, particularly West Point Lake, are also experiencing high inflows. At West Point Lake, due to the heavy rains in the past 24 hours, the lake is nearing its flood storage capacity. The minimal releases necessary are being made at West Point to protect the structure. Unfortunately this is adding additional water to already swollen downstream rivers,” said Robbins.

Lake levels on Allatoona Lake are expected to be 850.0 to 852.0 by Sunday, May 11, which is ten to twelve feet above normal summer pool.

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In these times of high lake levels, boating safety is of high concern. Debris may be submerged or floating in the lake causing unusual boating hazards. Boaters are urged to use extreme caution while operating their boat on the lake. Swimmers should also use extreme caution because of the possibility of stronger currents and flood-related debris.

Some recreation areas are currently impacted by high waters, particularly Sweetwater Campground at Allatoona Lake. Portions of major parks and some small boat ramps are also closed. Listed below is the status of parks at Allatoona Lake. Some recreation areas at Lake Lanier, including boat ramps, picnic sites and camp sites may be closed if the lake continues to rise. West Point Lake is experiencing minor localized flooding in some of the recreation areas.

We will work with the public to accommodate reservation cancellations or changes to other campsites. More information is available on the web at <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/> .or by calling the projects at: Allatoona Lake 678-721-6700, Carters Lake 706-334-2248, and Lake Lanier 770-945-9531

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FLOOD CONTROL 3/3/3/3**

STATUS of Parks at Allatoona Lake

Galts: Ramp open, beach inundated. Day Use Fees apply only for ramp use.

Tanyard Ramp: Closed.

41 # 2: Beach Closed. Attendants manning gatehouse, Day Use Fees do not apply.

Dallas Road: Closed.

Proctor: Beach mostly inundated. Attendants manning gatehouse, Day Use Fees do not apply.

Sweetwater Day Use: Closed.

Victoria Day Use: Closed

Kellogg: Beach closed. Attendants manning gatehouse, Day Use Fees do not apply.

Knox Bridge Ramp: Closed.

Clark Creek North: Sites 5, 6, 8, 9, & 10 closed. 5 & 6 have reservations. Sites 1, 2, & 3 may close later.

Clark Creek South: Closed from Beach to end.

Victoria CG: 4 Reservations relocated, sites being held.

Payne CG: Sites 42 through 54 Closed.

McKaskey CG: Sites on beach road closed. Sites 18 & 19 closed.

Stamp Creek CG: Sites 19 & 20 closed.

41 # 3: Site 48 closed.

These conditions will be in effect until lake levels subside.

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